

Timely Tidbits ...

Goodfellows Donations, Applications Accepted

The city's busiest intersections will be "manned" by Romulus Goodfellows volunteers on Friday, December 4, and Saturday, December 5, to conduct the organization's annual newspaper drive for its "No Child Without a Christmas" mission. If you see a volunteer, please give generously; you'll be helping the less fortunate in your community enjoy a happy holiday.

The Goodfellows will also be accepting donations of cash, gift certificates, winter apparel, and new, unwrapped toys (among other items) through the beginning of December. Items may be dropped off at Romulus City Hall (11111 Wayne Road) or Fire Station #4 (28777 Eureka Road) during normal business hours. Business owners and civic groups interested in "adopting" a family are being sought, as well. For information, call Mayor Alan R. Lambert's office at 734-942-7571.

Romulus residents who would like to receive help from the Goodfellows may fill out an application and return it any weekday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Romulus Police station located at 11165 Olive Street (corner of Bibbins). The deadline for registration is Friday, December 4.

For information, call the Goodfellows Hot Line at 734-955-4577.

"Person of the Year" Nominations Sought

The Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce is seeking nominations for its 25th Person of the Year award.

Any individual who has made significant contributions to Romulus and its residents is eligible. Residency is not required.

Those submitting nominations should include their own contact information (e-mail address and/or telephone number), as well as a biographical synopsis of the nominee and the reason that he/she is being suggested. Forms are available at the Chamber office and on its Web site: www.romuluschamber.org.

The deadline for nominations is December 18. For more information, call 734-893-0694. □

City Elections Bring Changes in Romulus, Taylor



Stacy Paige



Ellen Craig-Bragg



LeRoy Burcroff



Jeffrey Lamarand



Cheryl Burke

By Kristi Stephens

City elections brought new faces to at least one administrative office and the City Council in both Romulus and Taylor.

In Romulus, unofficial vote totals showed incumbent Mayor Alan R. Lambert defeating his challenger, Councilman Harry Crout, by a comfortable margin of 2,519 to 1,557. In the clerk's race, which featured former clerk Raymond Cantrell vying with City Councilwoman Ellen Craig-Bragg for the seat being vacated by retiring Linda Choate, Craig-Bragg emerged the winner, 2,126 to 1,842. And Pamela Morrison-Kersey, who had served as treasurer for the past 12 years, was defeated by challenger Stacy Paige, who received 2,017 votes to Morrison-Kersey's 1,971.

With Council Chairman Randolph Gear's decision not to seek reelection, and Councilpersons Crout and Craig-Bragg seeking other offices, the Romulus City Council was guaranteed to gain three freshmen members. Incumbent LeRoy Burcroff – who garnered the most votes (2,634) and, therefore, the Council chairmanship – was followed by Linda Choate (2,488); incumbents Bill Wadsworth (2,372), John Barden (2,325), and Bill Crova (1,962); Celeste Roscoe (1,930); and Eva Webb (1,796).

Not elected were Ken Mabrey (1,285), Dean Gilbert (1,174), Keenan Brown (1,160), Charles Miller (1,158), Ronald Orr (957), and Thomas Madej (911).

A total of 4,167 votes were cast.

In Taylor, Councilman Jeffrey Lamarand will assume stewardship of the city after defeating incumbent Mayor Cameron G. Priebe, 5,596 to 4,448. City Clerk Mary Ann Riley retained her position, netting 5,413 votes to challenger Erin H. Dobbins's 4,152. Treasurer Wayne F. Avery, who ran unopposed, received 7,700 votes.

In the Council race, newcomer Cheryl Burke received the most votes (5,704), followed by incumbents Jill Brandana (5,174), Herman Ramik (4,585), and Jacklyn Molner (4,579); John E. Delo (4,110); and incumbents Suzanne L. Weycker (3,931) and Dennis E. Stapleton (3,772).

Not elected were incumbent Rick Sollars (3,595), Tim Witz (3,466), Rick Flood (3,280), Doug Riemel (3,139), Jennifer Lane (3,039), Edward G. Mulka (2,960), and Frank C. Canning (2,878).

A total of 10,153 votes were cast.

Romulus

Mayor

Mayor Alan R. Lambert was happy with the vote of confidence he received.

"I would like to thank the citizens of Romulus for their continued support," he said. "It appears that they like the direction our city is moving in, and I'm going to do my best to continue working for their benefit in these tough times."

"The next four years will be crucial," he continued. "Through sound management, we have managed to maintain services and avoid layoffs, but anticipated declines in revenue sharing and local property taxes will make that more difficult in the future. That's why, in the next 30 days, I'll be forming a fiscal task force composed of people like auditors, business persons, representatives from our schools, clergy members, and residents. We'll hold public hearings and invite citizens to help us brainstorm creative ways to make the most of our available revenue so that Romulus can continue to move forward."

Councilman Harry Crout, whom Lambert defeated, is also concerned about the City's future, and promised to continue being a watchdog for the people of Romulus.

"I'm not going to go away; I'm still going to speak up and let residents know what's going on," he said.

Crout thanked those who helped him with his campaign.

"So many people worked really hard for me over the past seven months," he stated. "I would like to express my appreciation for all they did on my behalf."

Clerk

Newly elected Clerk Ellen Craig-Bragg is looking forward to taking on a new role in city government.

"I pledge to work hard and stay focused on the needs of the community, and to stay connected to the people of Romulus," she stated. "My experience as a City Councilwoman should be a big help to me."

Craig-Bragg voiced her appreciation for all who supported her.

"This wouldn't have been possible without all their efforts," she said.

Craig-Bragg's opponent, Raymond Cantrell, also thanked his supporters.

"A lot of people worked really hard on my behalf," he said. "I'd like to express my gratitude to them, and to wish Mrs. Craig-Bragg all the best as she assumes her duties as City Clerk."

Treasurer

"Obviously, I'm elated at the support I've received, and I'm eager to begin my work as the new Treasurer of the City of Romulus," said Stacy Paige. "My Deputy Treasurer, Tracy Leininger, and I are ready to roll up our sleeves and work through this transitional period."

"I want residents to be assured that there will be no delay or interruption in the processing of the business of the Treasurer's office," she added.

Paige has already identified her goals for her first weeks in office.

"Our first major task will be to certify the tax rolls and process tax bills and statements in a timely fashion," she stated.

Paige congratulated all the successful candidates, especially Mayor Lambert and Council Chairman Burcroff, and gave a special thank-you to Robert McLachlan for his dedication and hard work on her behalf.

Also expressing her gratitude was incumbent Pamela Morrison-Kersey.

"I've been blessed to have had so many wonderful supporters over the years," she stated. "It was my pleasure to serve the people of Romulus, and I thank everyone who put their trust in me."

Council Chairman

As he assumes the duties of Council Chairman, LeRoy Burcroff will be mindful of the shoes he is filling.

continued on page 4

Letter to the Editor

Construction Company Denies Accusations

To the Editor:

Recently, JS Vig Construction became aware of some campaign literature that made libelous accusations about our company and its alleged associations with the incumbent mayor of Romulus and the City's Community Development director. The literature claimed that JS Vig, which built the Romulus Senior Center and the Romulus Athletic Center, also built the incumbent mayor a new home in Naples, Florida. It further implied that the Community Development director may be receiving kickbacks from us.

These statements, at the very least, are vilifying, defamatory, and totally untrue. Our company *has not* participated in building any type of home for, or been involved with kickbacks to, any members of the City of Romulus, or any other community, in our 44-year history. The truth is, our firm was awarded the contract to build the senior

and athletic centers because we were the low bidder amongst other qualified general contractors. Also, two separate architectural firms were involved in the decision process to award these projects to the low qualified bidder. Additionally, during construction of both facilities, we were instrumental in initiating ideas that allowed hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of savings to be passed on to the City. JS Vig also donated back a part of our construction fees to the City during the closeout negotiations for the RAC.

The inaccurate accusations directed toward our company are unequivocally false, and, due to their libelous content, must be retracted immediately. JS Vig reserves the right to partake in legal actions against those responsible if these untruths are not retracted as stated above.

Dennis J. Levko, Vice President □

Romulus Gains 3 New Police Officers



Mayor Alan R. Lambert (second from left), Deputy Chief Michael St. Andre (left), and Executive Lieutenant John Leacher (right) were among those present as three new police officers – (from left) Daniel Williams, Keith Haynes, and Ian Morrison – were sworn in for duty. The brief ceremony was held at Romulus City Hall on October 26. Photo by R. E. Kadan

"Girls on the Run" Benefits Soldiers, Hungry



A "Girls on the Run" fun run/walk sponsored by Barth Elementary School raised money and food for two of the students' favorite causes. To enter the event – held at Romulus Middle School on October 31 – participants paid a cash fee or donated a bag of groceries. The food was given to Community United Methodist Church for its food pantry. The cash (including \$250 donated by the Romulus Rotary, \$100 by True Health Chiropractic proprietor Dr. Jeremiah Shaft, and \$150 in other donations) will be used to purchase items for care packages for members of the military. Students are still accepting donations of cash and/or personal/other items for their care packages. Donations may be dropped off at the Romulus Department of Parks and Recreation office, located in the Romulus Athletic Center (35765 Northline Road), by November 25. Photo by R. E. Kadan

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We are sorry, but we cannot guarantee the return of any photograph submitted to us, although we will make every attempt to do so.

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While every effort is made to insure that advertisement copy is error-free, the little paper is not responsible for problems resulting from typographical errors which may appear in any advertisement, and limits its liability to the advertiser to the cost of the ad.

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Guest Commentary

Time to Take the Politics Out of Education

By Robert McLachlan, trustee, Romulus Community Schools Board of Education

For many years, even decades, the Michigan Legislature has been using school-children as pawns in a partisan game of chess. There are, indeed, structural flaws that need to be addressed, not only at the State level, but at the intermediate and local district levels, as well. Issues such as consolidation, both inside and beyond a given district's borders, must be considered as real options to better utilize tax dollars. There are arguments against such consolidation, because some are resolute in their support of "local control," or they wish to adhere to the traditional "neighborhood school" concept. Unfortunately, the days of districts being able to financially sustain school buildings with only 150–200 students are gone.

Many districts are facing serious financial difficulties, resulting from several factors. Student enrollment is declining rapidly, as families leave the area in search of employment. Some students leave for the charter schools in the area, which are allowed to siphon money from the public educational system, which has different rules by which to play. For instance, charter schools have the ability to "cherry pick" students – academically and behaviorally. Public schools must provide service to every legal resident within the boundaries. Charters also do not have the systemic bureaucratic overhead that is inherent in public education – one of those structural flaws that we must have the courage and convictions to discuss and reform.

Michigan has not made serious investments to Pre-K-12 education in years. In fact, the support for education has steadily decreased in recent years. "Proposal A" was sold to the voters as a means to resolve the inequities in funding between so-called "rich" districts and those that were "poor." However, this plan was doomed to fail from the onset. Placing funding for a program as essential as children's education at the mercy of the economy (by using sales tax revenue as the main source of funding) is simply irresponsible and shortsighted. As we have seen, when revenues do not materialize, our children pay the price. Further, when the shift for financing is placed on "per pupil" revenue instead of based upon the voter-approved levy and valuation of a local district, the burden on districts experiencing even slight decreases in enrollment can be profound.

The recent funding cuts affect Romulus Community Schools as follows:

- the Governor has signed a per-pupil reduction of \$165, which amounts to about \$660,000 in lost revenue (Romulus has approximately 4,000 students);
- the Governor has vetoed "20j" spending, which is funding associated with about 50 districts statewide – so-called

"hold-harmless" districts from Proposal A's limitations – which results in RCS losing another \$275 per pupil, amounting to about \$1.1 million;

- the Governor has issued an executive order, ordering a prorated cut of another \$127 per pupil, amounting to approximately \$508,000 for Romulus.

The total reduction in funding for Romulus this year is nearly \$2.3 million – which comes to the district after the fiscal year is nearly one-third over.

It would be unfair not to point out that our legislators (Representative Doug Geiss and Senator Raymond Basham) have been working tirelessly to restore this funding. They also worked very hard to avoid the recent budget "showdown" in Lansing. However, the legislature as a whole has failed miserably in its responsibility to pass a budget, on time, that addresses the needs of this state, including our children. To wit, the Governor's "20j" veto was a retaliatory "strike" against Senate Republicans, who are stonewalling any attempt at increasing revenue to fund the School Aid program. The Republican Senate Majority Leader, Mike Bishop, while quick to offer heavy-handed cuts to vital programs, will not entertain discussion on ways to replace the revenue.

Again, it is time to remove the partisan politics from the process of educating our children. Our entire legislature should be mindful of their Constitutional requirement to provide a free, public education for the children of Michigan. We need to have genuine, thorough debate on systemic reform that will restore Michigan as an educational leader. Appropriate funding must be provided to reach that pinnacle. Legislation to help standardize health-care options and costs deserves a fair, complete discussion.

I urge all citizens to contact your elected officials and show your support for children in Michigan. Share your views regarding funding and reform. Only through open dialogue will our legislators know the feelings of their constituents, and therefore be able to act upon them. We need to express our priorities to them, and hold them accountable to addressing them. Below, I have provided a few pertinent e-mail addresses. Please visit www.michigan.gov to search for other legislators to share your views with. Please take a moment to act – NOW!

Contact:

- House Speaker Andy Dillon
andydillon@house.mi.gov
- Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop
SenMBishop@senate.michigan.gov
- Representative Doug Geiss
DouglasGeiss@house.mi.gov
- Senator Raymond Basham
SenRBasham@senate.michigan.gov
- Robert McLachlan
rmclachlan917@comcast.net or
www.rmclachlan.com □

Guest Commentary

Priebe, City of Taylor Prevail Over Developer

By Edward Plato, corporation counsel for the City of Taylor

When Cameron G. Priebe was running for the office of Mayor in 2005, he campaigned against the City of Taylor's excessive development of multifamily residential homes in a housing market that was already oversaturated. He also campaigned against the generous sweetheart deals that had previously been given by the City to developers.

Upon taking office in November of 2005, one of Mayor Priebe's first actions was to terminate a purchase agreement whereby the City was selling six parcels of land to a developer as part of a large condominium development project. Subsequently, the newly elected City Council tabled the issue of the condominium project, and never gave the project final approval.

In February of 2006, the developer, Taylor Acquisitions, LLC, and Sam Blumenstein, sued Mayor Priebe and the City of Taylor in the U.S. District Court, claiming that the developer had spent millions of dollars on the 240-unit residential condominium project that was to be called "The Enclaves," and was to be located at Racho Road and Superior Parkway near the Southland Shopping Center. The proposed development would have consisted of approximately 31 acres of property. The developer alleged that the Mayor and the City violated the developer's due process and equal protection rights under the Constitution by refusing to let the project proceed. As the City's corporation counsel, I immediately filed a motion to dismiss the lawsuit, and the District Court dismissed the due-process claims, but allowed the case to proceed on the developer's claim that its rights of equal protection under the Constitution had been violated. However, after extensive

deposition testimony was completed in the case, I filed a motion for summary judgment seeking to have the remaining claims of the developer dismissed. In a surprising development in the case, a former mayor of Taylor, Gregory Pitoniak, filed an affidavit in the case in favor of the developer and against the City of Taylor to help the developer proceed with the case against the City. However, in spite of the affidavit, the motion for summary judgment was granted by the U.S. District Court in favor of Mayor Priebe and the City of Taylor.

The developer then appealed the District Court's decisions to the United States Court of Appeals in Cincinnati. After extensive briefing and oral arguments in the U.S. Court of Appeals, that court affirmed the rulings in favor of Mayor Priebe and the City. In a lengthy written opinion, the three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals specifically found that Mayor Priebe and the City had "clearly reasonable and appropriate objectives for any City Council and Mayor" when "they wanted to curtail residential development because of the oversaturated housing market in the City, protect the City's financial interest, eliminate overly generous financial subsidies from the City to Developers, and preserve green space and wooded land owned by the City."

The developer sought to appeal the decisions of the U.S. District Court and the U.S. Court of Appeals to the U.S. Supreme Court, but, on October 5, 2009, the U.S. Supreme Court denied the developer's petition, thereby upholding the decisions of the lower courts in favor of Mayor Priebe and the City of Taylor. This is the end of the line for the developer, Taylor Acquisitions, LLC. It has no further appeals. □

Romulus Breaks Ground for Animal Shelter



(From left) Animal Control Officer Kimberley Matthews, Sarah Wadsworth, Councilman William Wadsworth, Mayor Alan R. Lambert, Council Chairman Randolph Gear, Councilman John Barden, Councilman Harry Crout, Councilwoman Ellen Craig-Bragg, Treasurer Pamela Kersey, Clerk Linda Choate, Councilman LeRoy Burcroff, Wayne County Sheriff Benny Napoleon, County Commissioner Edward Boike, and Romulus Animal Control Officer Annie Hall were among those who attended an October 22 ground-breaking ceremony for the new Romulus Animal Shelter. The 5,700-square-foot facility will be located on Wayne Road north of the Department of Public Works. Photo by R. E. Kadan

City Elections Bring Changes

continued from page 1

"I will work hard to continue the high standards set before me by Randolph Gear and MaryAnn Banks," he said. "It is a real honor to have the support of the citizens."

Burcroff thanked the elected officials who just finished their term for their dedication to the city, then addressed the future.

"I'm looking forward to continue working with Mayor Lambert and all the City leaders," Burcroff stated. "I feel confident that the new Council will be able to work in a spirit of cooperation, and to look out for the best interests of the people."

"We are all aware of the economic conditions facing our region," he continued, "but this Council is up to the challenge."

Taylor

Mayor

Mayor-elect Jeffrey Lamarand is anxious get to work for the people of Taylor.

"I want to see this city put its best foot forward," he said. "I'm the guy who can make that happen, and I'm glad the voters recognized it. Working together, we can come out stronger than ever."

Lamarand said his vision is simple: "Put public safety first, and frivolous spending last. ... We must get costs under control."

Like Mayor Lambert in Romulus, Lamarand wants to get citizens' input on the City's fiscal policies. He'll be seeking their help to find ways to trim the budget, and to make popular programs like the annual fireworks festival more cost-effective.

Other priorities include the restoration of curbside recycling (which Lamarand hopes to achieve by the new year) and an expansion of the City's Web site to provide residents with more and better information.

Lamarand concluded by thanking his numerous supporters.

"I'd like to give special thanks to my family, who put in a lot of time and made a lot of sacrifices, and to the volunteers who campaigned for me, including the police officers and firefighters who spent countless hours knocking on doors and discussing important issues with the voters."

Outgoing Mayor Cameron G. Priebe was surprised and disappointed by the election results.

"I felt confident that the numbers split would be about what it actually was – but in reverse," he stated.

"I'm happy that four members of the Priebe Team were reelected to Council," he added. "I know they will continue their good work for the people of Taylor."

Priebe said that Lamarand will have his support as he faces tough issues ahead.

"I'll be happy to offer any help I can. This is still home for me and my family, and I want what's best for my community."

Clerk

Incumbent Clerk Mary Ann Riley is pleased to have been reelected and excited about what's to come in the next four years.

"I'm looking forward to assisting Mayor-elect Lamarand in transitioning to his new role," she stated. "He has a lot of good ideas about improving our city, and I'll be there to help."

Riley's challenger, Erin H. Dobbins, did not return a call seeking comment.

Council Chairman

Chairman-elect Cheryl Burke, who will take the helm at the November 17 meeting of the City Council, said she is ready to hit the ground running.

"These are challenging times, and the Taylor voters have sent the message that they are ready for their elected officials to roll up their sleeves and get down to work," she stated. "I am confident the Taylor City Council will work diligently with the new mayor to preserve and improve the quality of life in Taylor."

Asked about her goals for the future, Burke replied, "My initial concerns include creating a comprehensive plan to more effectively balance the City budget; raising the bar on economic development initiatives in order to bring new jobs to Taylor; preserving the integrity of all City services, including police, fire, and senior citizens; studying the feasibility of tax relief; and initiating quality neighborhood improvements to help increase property values for our home-owners and businesses."

* * *

Elected officials in both Romulus and Taylor will take the oath of office at their respective city halls on Monday, November 9, at 12 p.m. □

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A Happy Halloween



Lots of Romulus homeowners – including the Harris family on Romulus Avenue – got into the holiday spirit with elaborate decorations. Photos by R. E. Kadam



A "Spooktacular" program hosted by the City of Romulus Department of Parks and Recreation on October 24 featured a parade, costume contest, crafts, and lots of goodies! The event was held at Historic Park.



The sixth annual "Spooktacular" held on October 23 at Barth Elementary in Romulus was a school-wide carnival that featured games, a costume contest, holiday-themed decorations (see above), and a haunted house with neon-painted walls so students could see their artwork glow in the black lights. Fifth- and sixth-graders worked games or portrayed "spookers" in the haunted house, and middle- and high-school students also volunteered. Barth principal Diane Golka thanked all the staff members and parents who made the event such a success.

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THANK YOU,
ROMULUS RESIDENTS



Thank you, Romulus residents,
for the honor of serving as your
Mayor for the past eight years
and the privilege to continue for
the next four!

Congratulations to all the newly
elected officials. I look forward
to working with you and
welcoming the challenges and
changes ahead.

Alan R. Lambert, Mayor
City of Romulus

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Alan R. Lambert,
38475 Westvale, Romulus, MI 48174

THANK YOU for Your Support



My sincere thanks to the people of Romulus, who have, once again, given me their trust and support. I pledge to put my 26 years of experience in city government to good use as I begin my new role as City Councilwoman.

—Linda Choate

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Linda Choate



Paid for by the Committee to Elect John Barden

I want to thank the people of Romulus for once again allowing me to serve on their behalf. Romulus is a great city with a lot of potential, and I'm glad to have the opportunity to work for its citizens.

John Barden
Councilman

Dear Romulus friends and neighbors,

Thank you for taking the time to vote. I appreciate your support and confidence in my candidacy for City Clerk. A special thanks to all of my poll workers for enduring the cold weather.

Ellen Craig-Bragg
City Clerk



Paid for by the Committee to Elect Ellen Craig-Bragg

With Heartfelt Gratitude



Dear Citizens,
Thank you very much for your continued confidence and support. It is my privilege to serve you for four more years.

Sincerely,
LeRoy Burcroff

Paid for by the Committee to Elect LeRoy D. Burcroff

THANK YOU



Paid for by the Committee to Elect Celeste Roscoe

To all my family, friends, and supporters: I appreciate your vote of confidence and all your help. "Striving Forward" for the Romulus community, it will be an honor to serve as your Councilwoman.

— Celeste Roscoe

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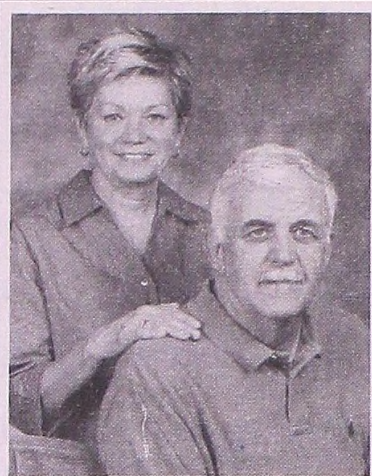
— To the Voters of Romulus —



Paid for by the Committee to Elect Eva Webb for City Council

I thank you for believing in me, and thank you for all your support. You have truly shown me that I am Your Choice and Your Voice for City Council.

Thanks again,
Eva Webb



Paid for by the Committee to Elect William Wadsworth

**To the People of Romulus:
Thanks
for the Vote
of Confidence**

Councilman Bill Wadsworth,
Jean Wadsworth, grandchildren
Sarah, Andrew, Elizabeth, and
William, and the rest of the
Wadsworth Clan

P.S. Adopt a pet!

**Thank You,
Romulus Residents,
for Your Support**

I am extremely excited
to work with you
and for you as we

"Turn a New Paige"

Stacy Paige, Treasurer
City of Romulus



Paid for by the Committee to Elect Stacy Paige • 36862 Mario Ann Ct., Romulus, MI 48174

**A SINCERE
THANK YOU**



I want to thank the
residents of Romulus
for their support over
the last four years.

Friends are the family
you choose, and I
choose the residents
of Romulus.

Thanks again.
— Harry Crout

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Harry Crout

THANKS TO MY SUPPORTERS



Paid for by the Committee to Elect Keenan Brown

I want to thank everyone who
supported me in my campaign for
City Council. Even though
I was not elected, it's good to know
that others share my concerns for
the community and my vision for
the future of Romulus. I hope I'll
have your support when I run again
four years from now.

— Keenan J. Brown



**With Sincere
Gratitude**

I would like to say thank
you to the people who
supported me during my
campaign for City Clerk.
Your hard work and trust
was greatly appreciated.

Paid for by the
Committee to Elect Raymond Cantrell

**THANK
YOU**



I was blessed to
have served the
citizens of Romulus
for twenty-six years.

Thank you to all
who supported me.

**Pamela
Morrison-Kersey**

Paid for by the Committee
to Re-Elect Pamela Morrison-Kersey

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Donations are tax deductible.

Donors of \$500 or more will be recognized on a memorial plaque.

Donors of \$25 or more will be recognized in a "book of friends."

Sassy Seniors

For information about these or other programs, contact the appropriate center.

Romulus

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Rummage Sale

Pick up bargains galore at a rummage sale to held at Whispering Willows apartments (11100 Wayne Road). The three-day event is set for November 12–14 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Thanksgiving Party

Even in these hard times, there is plenty for which to be thankful. The Romulus Senior Center will celebrate these blessings with a holiday dinner to be held on Tuesday, November 24, at 11:30 a.m. Highlights of the event will include entertainment, beautiful door prizes, raffles, and a menu featuring turkey, "Rose's rice," mashed potatoes and gravy, stuffing, green bean casserole, dessert, and beverage.

Cost is \$4.50 per person. Seating is limited; early registration is recommended!

Holiday Shopping

With the holiday season nearly upon us, it's time to start shopping! Upcoming trips – all set for Mondays at 9:30 a.m. – include Walmart (November 9), Kmart (November 16), and Meijer/Southland (December 7).

Transportation is free. Space is limited; preregistration is required.

Holiday Lights

Enjoy dinner, a play, and a lighted parade through downtown Northville on Friday, November 20. The Senior Center bus will depart at 3 p.m. Be sure to dress for the weather!

Cost is \$25. Preregistration is required.

See a Show!

Theatre buffs interested in seeing upcoming shows like *101 Dalmatians*, *Little House on the Prairie*, and *Jersey Boys* at the Fisher and Fox theatres should call the Senior Center. Programs coordinator Rose Swidan will arrange trips if enough interest is demonstrated.

Caesars Windsor Casino

The Center is planning trips to Caesars Windsor on December 10 and 22. Costs of \$10 (with a show) and \$5, respectively, include a \$15 voucher good for food or gaming. Call Rose Swidan for more information.

Lunch Out

The Center's next "lunch out" destinations will be Julianni's Coney Island on Friday, November 13. The bus will depart at 11 a.m. Transportation is free.

Advance registration is required.

Regular Programs

Contact the Senior Center for more information on these free or low-cost weekly programs, including:

- bingo (Mondays/Wednesdays, 1 p.m.),
- bunco (Tuesdays, 1 p.m.),
- knitting/crochet classes (Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.),
- fun night (Wednesdays, 5 p.m.),

- game day (Thursdays, 1 p.m.),
- painting (Fridays, 11 a.m.), and
- walking club (Fridays, 11 a.m., at the Romulus Athletic Center).

Taylor

6750 Troy • 313-291-7740

Christmas Party

Enjoy dinner, (catered by Veronica's), music (by Solitaire), and more at the Ford Senior Center's Christmas party, set for Friday, December 18, from 1 to 5 p.m.

Tickets are \$15 per person. Deadline for registration is Friday, December 11.

Holiday Shopping

With its impressive variety of stores, Great Lakes Crossing in Auburn Hills is a great mall for holiday shopping! The bus will depart from the Senior Center at 9 a.m. on Thursday, December 3, and return at approximately 4 p.m.

Cost is \$2 for transportation plus lunch on your own. Advance sign-up is required.

Frankenmuth Fun!

Have dinner and visit St. Julian Winery and Bronner's Christmas Wonderland when the Senior Center bus travels to Frankenmuth on Friday, December 4. Depart from the Center at 11 a.m. and return at about 8:30 p.m.

Cost is \$5 plus lunch on your own. Advance registration is required.

"An Afternoon at the Movies"

Enjoy a gourmet buffet and dessert, then see *The Box* – with free popcorn and beverages! – on Tuesday, November 17. Bus departs from the Center at 10:15 a.m. and returns at about 4 p.m.

A cost of \$18.75 includes transportation, lunch, and admission. Advance registration is required.

Greektown Casino

If you love to gamble, but hate the hassles of traffic and parking, this trip to Greektown Casino is for you! The Ford Center's new bus will depart at 9 a.m. on Thursday, December 17, and return at approximately 4 p.m.

Cost is just \$2. Space is limited; sign up early!

Monthly Birthday Bash

If you were born in November, and are 55 or older, come out to the Center's next Birthday Bash, set for Thursday, November 19, from 1 to 3 p.m. Cake, ice cream, and karaoke will be among the attractions.

There's no charge to attend; simply preregister by Monday, November 16.

No children, please.

"Tea Socials"

Local seniors are invited to come to the Center each Wednesday at 1 p.m. for board games, cards, or just to socialize.

New faces are welcome!

Check Your Blood Pressure

The Center has tentatively scheduled a free blood-pressure check from 8:30 to 11 a.m. on Thursday, November 19. Just drop in! □

Taylor Seniors Get Their Money's Worth from Ford Center's New Bus



Denizens of the William D. Ford Senior Activity Center in Taylor are making good use of a new 40-passenger bus that was purchased, in part, with money they raised. Trip destinations include casinos, theaters, restaurants, shopping venues, and various special events.

The members of Taylor's senior center are getting their money's worth out of a new bus they helped pay for.

The new 40-passenger bus is transporting seniors from the William D. Ford Senior Activity Center to a variety of destinations, including:

- restaurants (twice monthly)
- theaters
- casinos (two to three times per month)
- shopping venues
- quilting shows
- The Renaissance Festival

What makes the new bus experience so unique is how the vehicle was purchased. Marsha Dotson, Senior Services director, said Mayor Cameron G. Priebe issued a challenge to the seniors a couple years ago, saying that if they could raise half the cost of the \$80,000 bus, the City would match that amount.

The seniors solicited donations, sold McDonald's coupon books, and held quilt raffles, spaghetti dinners, and a pancake breakfast – just to name a few fund-raising endeavors. Through hard work, Dotson said, the seniors were able to raise more than \$26,000, leaving only \$14,000 to go.

"Through major Citywide cost-cutting efforts implemented by Mayor Priebe, the City was able to reappropriate funds to help us purchase our bus sooner," Dotson said. "And now the bus is in service."

Claire Brown, a member of the City's Commission on Aging, said she and the other seniors "just love our new bus." Since it arrived, Brown has been to plays, a shopping mall in Oakland County, an apple orchard in Romeo, and a movie theater in Birmingham.

"I think all of the seniors are lucky to have this bus," said Brown, who has volunteered at the senior center for more than 25 years.

The center also has two 19-passenger buses provided by SMART Municipal Credit Funds, as well as a van, all of which

are used for other daily activities.

"We provide transportation for doctor visits," Dotson explained, "as well as a 'Dial-a-Ride' program where the buses pick up Taylor seniors at their homes and bring them to the center, free of charge."

The Dial-a-Ride program also includes trips to stores such as Meijer and Kmart, and even a day at a local beauty college. Pharmacies and banks are also frequented.

Dotson is proud of the transportation program – one of many programs at the busy Ford Senior Center, located at 6750 Troy, west of Telegraph Road and just north of Ecorse Road.

The center offers a variety of activities and senior support programs such as the nutrition program, through which meals are served weekdays at the center and delivered to approximately 75 homebound seniors, as well. Other activities – including bingo, card playing, pool, and ping pong – are regular events. An exercise room is available to those who have first taken a safety class.

There is a senior bowling league at Skore Lanes, as well as three golf leagues with more than 230 participants at the two City golf courses. Outside the center is a new horseshoe pit that was installed by the Golf, Parks and Recreation Department, plus a new brick-paver patio, recently installed by Eagle Scout Nick Kochis.

Classes in oil painting, tai chi, weight training, yoga, line dancing, exercise, quilting, stained glass, and computer skills are offered throughout the year. There are also themed dances for such occasions as Valentine's Day and Christmas.

"Our most recent dance was our 26-year anniversary dance with the theme, 'Taste of Taylor,'" said Dotson. "Seven restaurants from the community come in and shared items from their menu with over 120 seniors. It was a great success."

For more information about bus trips and other activities at the William D. Ford Senior Activity Center, call 313-291-7740.

Wedding Bells!

Eric Benny and Jaclyn Ann (Evans) Lambert

Congratulations to Eric Benny and Jaclyn Ann (Evans) Lambert of Romulus, Michigan, who were married on Saturday, October 10, 2009. The couple – who had been engaged since October 8, 2008 – exchanged their wedding vows at St. Anne's Catholic Church (Detroit, MI).

Standing up with Eric were his best man, John Walton, and groomsmen Michael DeVita, Richard Evans, Ryan Evans, Ben Farrugia, Joseph Lambert, Julian Lambert, and Ryan Romak. Jaclyn was attended by her maid of honor, Jessica Wilhide; bridesmaids Angela Adcock, Kasey Barger, Alanna Evans, Jill Lambert, Joey Pyle, Jessica Romak, and Naomi White; and junior bridesmaids Christa and Morgan Evans. Parker DeVita and Blake Evans were ring bearers; flower girls were Ava Evans and Riley Lambert.

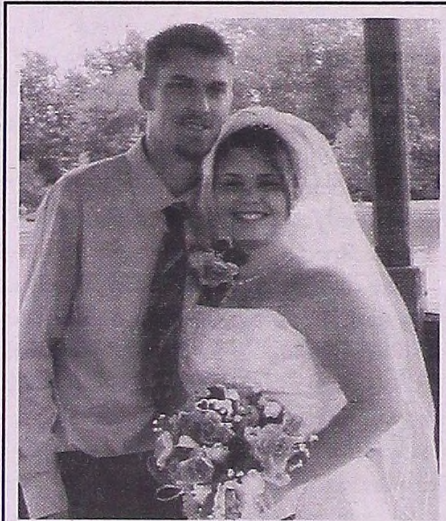
A reception at Burton Manor (Livonia, MI) immediately followed the ceremony.

Jaclyn is the daughter of Rich and Joyce Evans; Eric is the son of Maria and the late Russell Lambert (all of Romulus).



Jaclyn and Eric Lambert

Shane and Ashley (Rodgers) Lowrey



Shane and Ashley Lowrey

Congratulations to Shane and Ashley (Rodgers) Lowrey of Romulus, Michigan, who were married on Saturday, August 22, 2009.

The couple exchanged their wedding vows in a ceremony held at Living Rock Church (Romulus), with Pastor Frank Howard presiding.

Standing up with Shane was his best man, Sam Wells. Ashley was attended by her maid of honor, Heaven Rodgers.

A reception at Elmer's Rustic Steak Pit Hall (Wyandotte, MI) immediately followed the ceremony.

Ashley is the daughter of Carl Rodgers and Cindy Sarazin, and granddaughter of Ollie and Janet Turner; Shane is the son of Dean and Linda Lowrey (all of Romulus).

As part of our commitment to community service, *the little paper* publishes personal announcements and obituaries, free of charge, for residents of Taylor, Romulus, New Boston, and Belleville. For more information, please call 734-941-1907.

Obituary

Larry Arthur Schatilo

Larry Arthur Schatilo of Romulus, Michigan, passed away on Saturday, October 3, 2009. He was 57 years old.

The son of the late Eugene Jake and Catherine (Pajek) Schatilo was born in Detroit, Michigan, on Saturday, June 14, 1952.

Surviving Larry are his daughter, Sarah Schatilo (Sanford, MI), and a sister, Linda (Joe) Weginka (Romulus).

Among those who preceded him in passing was his wife, Darla (Bonk) Schatilo.

A funeral and committal service were held on Wednesday, October 7, at Michigan Memorial Park Cemetery (Flat Rock, MI). Arrangements were entrusted to Ware-Smith-Woolever Funeral Directors.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.waresmithwoolever.com. □

Congratulations!

Haynes Sworn in as Romulus Police Officer



Romulus Police Officer Keith Haynes (fourth from left) and his family – (from left) brother Cory, father Tom, mother Valerie, and grandmother Donna – were proud to have Mayor Alan R. Lambert, a longtime family friend and former Romulus police officer, attend the swearing-in ceremony for Officer Haynes.

The family of Keith R. Haynes is proud to announce that he is now an officer of the Romulus Police Department. He was sworn in during a brief ceremony held at City Hall on October 26.

A 2005 Romulus High School graduate, Keith earned an associate's degree in criminal justice from Henry Ford Community College, and is a graduate of the Wayne County Regional Police Academy. He was also active in the Romulus Police Explorers program for several years.

"Keith follows in the footsteps of his grandfather, former Romulus DPW director Robert Plank, who served as a constable and auxiliary policeman for the Township of Romulus from the mid 1950s through

the mid 1960s," said his mother, Valerie Haynes. "Mayor Alan Lambert's father, the late Danny Lambert, also served as an auxiliary policeman and partnered with Keith's grandfather. So it was a memorable moment to have Mayor Lambert – a former Romulus police officer, himself, and a longtime family friend – witness Keith taking his oath of office."

Keith is also the son of Tom Haynes, brother of Cory Haynes, and grandson of Donna Plank and the late Robert and Marianne Haynes.

His parents, brother, and grandmother congratulate him on his achievement, and wish him safety and success in his chosen career. □

City of Romulus PUBLIC NOTICE

In compliance with Michigan Compiled Laws Annotated, Section 95.3, a Cemetery Board of Trustees has been appointed by Mayor Alan Lambert and confirmed by City Council for the Romulus Memorial Cemetery. The five Board members are Genevieve Dugan, Nancy Champaigne, Tammy McGrane, Craig Plank, and Jan Lemon.

The purpose of the Board is: to oversee management and control of general cleaning of the cemetery for the improvement of the cemetery; to protect the cemetery and the appurtenances of the cemetery from injury; to address the restoration of monuments; and to impose sanctions for a violation of a lawful order or regulation made by the Board of Cemetery Trustees.

New rules and regulations, which will take effect in the spring of 2010, will be determined by the Board at a future study session with City Council.

The Romulus Memorial Cemetery is an historical cemetery that must be protected.

Linda Choate, Clerk
City of Romulus
734-942-7540

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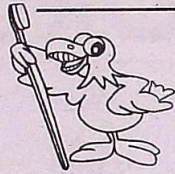
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